

We Claim:

1. A method for controlling vacuum distribution in an exposer for recording printing originals, which comprises the steps of:

holding firmly a recording material of a printing original on a supporting surface by vacuum, the recording material being attracted by suction by a vacuum pump through suction grooves machined into the supporting surface and through suction ducts connected to the suction grooves; and

opening and closing the suction ducts by manipulating valves, the valves being closed by a mechanical action of force from an actuator, and the valves being opened by an action of compressed air on a piston in each of the valves.

2. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises opening all of the valves simultaneously.

3. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises integrating an outlet opening for the compressed air into the actuator.

4. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:

disposing the suction ducts and the valves in an exposure drum; and

disposing the actuator outside the exposure drum.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the exposer records on printing plates.

6. An apparatus for controlling vacuum distribution in an exposer for recording printing originals, comprising:

a supporting surface for receiving a recording material of a printing original, said supporting surface having suction grooves machined therein and through said suction grooves the recording material is attracted to said supporting surface by suction;

suction ducts connected to said suction grooves;

valves for opening and closing said suction ducts;

an actuator for closing said valves by a mechanical action of force; and

a piston disposed in said valves and through said piston, said valves are opened by an action of compressed air.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said valves each contain:

a bush having a wall with drilled holes formed therein; and

a piston rod connected to said piston, said piston rod being displaced in said bush.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said piston rod closes and opens said drilled holes.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said actuator closes a respective one of said valves by an action of force on said piston rod.

10. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said actuator has an outlet opening formed therein for channeling the compressed air.

11. The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a valve block having a negative-pressure duct and a compressed-air duct formed therein, said valves connected to said negative-pressure duct and said compressed-air duct.

12. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the exposer records on printing plates.